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1925

Irises OF THE BETTER KIND



(Bearded or Pogoniris) (Fleur-de-Lis or Flags)

H. P. SIMPSON, Grower

R. F. D. No. 1 BOX 119

ROSSLYN . . . VIRGINIA.

(Suburb of Washington, D. C.)

"We continued the pilgrimage, passing up Pennsylvania Avenue, through antiquated Georgetown.over the new marble Kev Bridge into 'Dixie Land,' where H. P. Simpson grows his Iris. Mr. Farr had said at the lunch that he had seen so many blooms at the show and in the gardens that he was Iris-drunk: before he got away from Mr. Simpson's he must have surely had a 'jag' on. Squalens, plicatas, variegatas, and all of the other types were magnificently represented in his new seedlings, many of which he did not exhibit at the show. Virginia mud stuck close but the memory of these glorious blooms that we saw, of the lessons learned, and of the friendships we made, will stick even closer."-

J. M. R. Adams in the "Flower Grower."

CLASSIFICATION OF VARIETIES

Varieties are listed and classified according to their main color scheme, and though this is difficult at times, it is believed to be much better than the old and now confusing classification into neglecta, amoena, variegata, etc., groups which nowadays tell you nothing in many cases, of the dominating color of the variety. "S" means "Standards," or upright petals; "F" means "Falls," or the drooping petals.

For your convenience however, if you have become accustomed to the old classification, it is briefly given and explained below:

Amoena ("pleasing")—the standards are mostly white with the falls usually of a blue or violet shade.

Germanica—of early flowering habits and shades of blue to purple with falls of darker shades.

Neglecta ("neglected")—standards range from lavender to purple with falls of darker shades.

Pallida ("pallid")—light and dark shades of blue, lavender and purple with numerous approaches to pink and red; generally tall or fairly tall growth.

Plicata ("pleated")—Standards and falls usually have a colored frill-like margin on a white ground.

Squalens ("daubed")—standards of clouded shades of fawn, copper or bronze, with darker falls of purple or brown-crimson shades.

Variegata ("variegated")—standards of various shades of yellow, with brownish falls.

NAMES OF INTRODUCERS

The American introducers or hybridists named after the varieties are Farr, Morrison, Miss Sturtevant, Kennicott, Williamson and Fryer; the English are Foster, Yeld, Ware, Parker, Barr and Perry; the French are Lemon, Cayeux, Jacques, Verdier and Vilmorin; the German are Goos & Koeneman (G. & K.).

THE VARIETIES

White or White Effects

FAIRY (Kennicott, 1905)—White, delicately bordered and suffused pale blue. A very pretty bloom. Stems 36 inches tall and slightly bending, which is its only fault; not new and not as well known as it deserves to be......25c

"Its standards and falls resemble sunkissed snow outlined by the faint azure of the sky."

"A fine white that I would rate 85 or over," says one authority.

KASHMIR WHITE (Foster, 1913)—A most beautiful white hybrid that we owe to Sir Michael Foster. Flowers of stout texture and perfect shape on 36-40 inch stems. The finest white within reach of the average pocketbook, and a fine, tall white is today the scarcest thing in irises; Anna Farr is a tall, near-white and LaNeige is a dwarf near-white. Somewhat slow to get established and should have perfect drainage as well as plenty of lime in the soil. Roots somewhat small. \$2.00

"Kashmir White is my tallest and best white, and is thrifty here (in Michigan).

"Kashmir White, Fairy, Anna Farr, Princess Beatrice, and Aurea are my favorites.

"The grandest white for our locality (California); the past season it was the one variety enjoyed above all others.

LA NIEGE (Verdier, 1912)—A warm near-white of French origin; very pretty, and of medium size and height; horizontal falls and of good substance. 16-18 inches....75c MRS. H. DARWIN (Foster, 1893)—S. white; F. white slightly marked with violet. A pretty little flower, early and a very profuse bloomer. 16-20 inches...............20c

White Standards and Darker Falls

Frilled and Dotted Effects

MADAM CHEREAU (Lemon, 1844)—S. and F. white with distinct and rather heavy frilling of blue-lavender. The old standard frilled variety and of good blooming habit. A pretty flower and medium-size bloom. Tall. 36 inches...20c

VICTORINE (Lemon, 1840)—S. white, mottled blue; F. violet blue, mottled white. Medium-size flower and as dainty and pretty as an orchid. 27 inches...........25c

"In form and coloring this appeals to my sense of beauty strongly."

Pink

EDOUARD MICHEL (Verdier, 1904)—Self-colored large flower of a deep wine-red color, the deepest of all the pinks. A grand iris and of imposing effect. Tall stems and blooms finely held, 30-36 inches\$1.00

"Is admired above all others in my garden.

"Is a superb Iris and after certain preliminary difficulties are surmounted, it blends inexplicably well in many striking combinations.

"Mr. W's. Ed. Michel was simply gorgeous—it stood above everything in his garden.

HER MAJESTY (Perry, 1903)—S. pretty shade of rosepink; F. darker with considerable veining, 20-22 inches..25c

PAULINE (Farr, 1913)—S. and F. unusually large rich pansy-violet, or say, deep pink; rich orange beard. Approaches Edouard Michel in its coloring, but does not equal it. One of the largest of the Farr hybrids, 36 inches....35c

Blue or Purple

AMAS (wild; Asia Minor)—S. deep violet; F. sky-blue; one of the older varieties that is still liked. Fairly large bloom. Early bloomer. 24-27 inches......20c

ARCHEVEQUE (Vilmorin, 1911)—S. purple-violet; F. rich, deep velvety purple. A stunning color and excelled by none in my gardens. Good grower and fine bloomer. One of the richest color effects. 24-28 inches......35c

[&]quot;A wonderful block of Archeveque was the glory of the nursery."

BARONET (Sturtevant, 1920)—S. true chicory blue, with falls somewhat deeper in tone. Tall and medium-sized bloom. Color, tone and shading unusually good......\$1.00

"It is one of the most effective garden Irises that I have ever seen. Close at hand it is not specially remarkable, but at a distance of thirty to fifty feet it is scarcely surpassed for garden effects. Its growth is strong and vigorous; the flower stands out finely and the blending and shading of color at the proper distance is as fine as any Iris."—F. B. Mead.

MONSIGNOR (Vilmorin, 1907)—S. rich violet; F. velvety purple-crimson, heavily veined. Fine coloring and good shape, though not a large flower. Late, 22-28 inches....35c

"A stately, massive and inspiring variety."

OTHELLO (Lemon, about 1848)—S. rich blue; F. deep purple. One of the best of the older varieties. Rather small bloom, but a first-rate garden iris. Included by one grower in his list of the best purples. 25-30 inches.....20c

PARC NUILLY (Verdier, 1910)—Both standards and falls are a rich purple self, approaching plum in color. Medium to large blooms, and fine in masses, 21-24 inches..30c

TAMERLANE (Vilmorin, 1904)—Deep violet-purple falls with paler standards. Easy, rapid grower and a large, handsome flower. One grower has said that this should have been called "Iris King." Very effective in masses. 28-34 inches

One grower calls this a giant flower with rich falls; another says that it is of coarse texture and rather dull falls; the latter is nearer correct.

Lilac and Violet or Pink-Violet

BASHI-BAZOUK (Sturtevant, 1919)—S. light lavender-violet; F. deepening to mauve. A flower of large size with long drooping falls, and of an unusual effect. A very satisfactory bloomer and grower. 30-36 inches.............\$1.00

CATERINA (Foster, 1909)—Lavender-blue and lilac; almost the same coloring as P. Dalmatica except with a little pink showing. A beautiful flower and a graceful stem. Taller and larger than P. Dalmatica. Said to be a poor grower in very cold localities, but with me it is one of my best growers and with not a single fault to find in it. 40-45 inches. Price (according to size).....30c and 40c

"One of the most superb Irises that I have and this means something for I have over two hundred varieties.

"As Mr. W. grows it, it easily maintains a deserved position among the dozen best Irises I know of.

"Its fine color and smooth texture mark it as an aristocrat of the garden.

LEWIS TROWBRIDGE (Farr, 1913)—S. bright violet; F. blue-violet, shaded rose. Vigorous grower and fine bloom. One of the largest of the Farr hybrids. Somewhat like P. Dalmatica in color, but with more rose in it, 30-36 inches, 35c LEONIDAS (Europe, 1901)—S. clear mauve; F. rosy mauve. Large and of good form; tall. 30-32 inches....20c

Undoubtedly the most desirable of all the pallidas, says another grower, which is rather strong language, but the variety has many admirers without a doubt.

ORIFLAMME (Vilmorin, 1914)—S. light-blue; F. rich violet-purple. Somewhat early and enormous, handsome blooms; one of the largest of irises, 22-26 inches.......50c

PALLIDA DALMATICA OR PRINCESS BEATRICE (origin unknown)—S. light silvery lavender; F. clear and slightly deeper lavender. Large, fine blooms of perfect shape and admired by everyone. One of the older varieties not yet surpassed by any of the newer ones. I have the true variety, 30-34 inches. Prices, 30c, 40c, and 50c, according to size.

"The true Princess Beatrice is easily the most nearly perfect of any Iris that I know of."

QUEEN ALEXANDRIA (Barr, about 1910)—S. fawn, shot with lilac; F. lilac reticulated bronze at base. Smooth, cool texture and a very attractive bloom. Sturdy growth and good-sized flower, 20-22 inches......30c

"The large flowers of very fine form and exceptional substance appear to me to be akin to the type to which Dominion and L. A. Williamson belong, tho the coloring is not so strong and bright. It has also the same sturdy stems and vigorous growth as these, and is free-flowering."

Another authority says "An established clump of this variety is irresistible."

Blended and Bronze Shades

ALCAZAR (Vilmorin, 1910)—S. light bluish-violet; F. deep purple with bronze-veined throat. Somewhat somber, but a rich, large, striking bloom. Thought by some to be one of the richest effects in my garden. Late. 30 inches. 40c

"Unsurpassed as a garden clump.

AFTERGLOW (Sturtevant, 1917)—Soft grayish lavender shading to a rich yellow through the center. Of loose

[&]quot;Among the more sombre blends it was as magnificent, or more so, than it had ever been.

[&]quot;With its tall and widely branching habit, makes probably the finest specimen clump of any Iris. (A. J. Bliss.)

[&]quot;Easily the most popular variety among the darker blends.

"Several of the Sturtevant seedlings in this garden ranked among the aristocrats: Sindjkha, Sherbert, and the exquisitely-toned Afterglow."

"If it were necessary to name the best Iris in the world today, I would decide upon this variety.

"I would not change Ambassadeur in any respect.

"Most impressive and a splendid grower.

"In a class by itself and most imposing in substance, form and color.

"An old variety and was very splendid this season—finer far than many a heralded new variety."

"Eldorado was in beautiful form, and, massed with the exquisitely blending Quaker Lady, made a stunning corner in the garden. Both of these varieties are favorites with me.

"Eldorado was again the one to maintain the longest season, Monsignor being next.

"An indescribably beautiful thing. The stalk is magnificent and the buds just before unfolding are awe-inspiring.

"Among the finest pinkish Irises in existence.

"It resembles nothing but itself. There mingle in its tall uprights and broad falls all the pale shades of auburn, sepia and rose.

IRIS KING (G. & K., 1907)—S. rich yellow shaded fawn; F. rich maroon with yellow beard. Fine coloring and a handsome iris, but not large, even though some growers describe it as such. One of the indispensables that should be in every garden. About 26 inches......35c

JACQUESIANA (Lemon, 1840)—S. bright copper-crimson; F. rich maroon. Among the best of the older varieties and still holds its own with Iris lovers, 30-36 inches....30c

"Is of striking beauty and stands well at the front of the old varieties. "We prefer it to P. Laugier, but most visitors prefer the latter.

L. A. WILLIAMSON (Williamson, 1918)—S. soft campanula-violet; F. velvety royal-purple; brilliant golden beard. Massive in flower and growth. Said by some to be one of the finest in the world, 36-42 inches..\$1.00 and \$1.25 according to size.

"This is the best Iris seedling that has yet been raised in America. The flowers are very large, of the finest form and of great substance, surpassed only by Dominion. The coloring is rich, velvety and bright tho the crimson-purplish tone in the red-brown falls make it a little harsh. It is exceptionally free-flowering. Few, if any, Irises can claim such all-round excellence." A. J. Bliss.

"These three Irises (L. A. Williamson, Alcazar, and Ballerine) were the monarchs of my garden the past season.

PROSPER LAUGIER (Verdier, 1914)—S. smoky-brown; F. rich wine-red. Handsome and one of the best of the bronze varieties. Not a large flower, however. 30 inches, 35c

QUAKER LADY (Farr, 1909)—S. smoky lavender with yellow shadings; F. ageratum-blue and old gold. Odd and attractive. Not large but considered to be one of Farr's most attractive and popular seedlings, 30-33 inches.......35c

Yellow

AUREA (Jacques, 1834)—S. and F. rich chrome-yellow. Perhaps the finest yellow at a low price. Good sized, but not large blooms of fine form. 24 inches.................25c

"The best all-round yellow garden Iris; it seems to tone so well with many of the other varieties that it is very useful in quantities."

DAWN (Yeld, 1912)—Very pretty sulphur-yellow bloom, amber-veined at the throat. One of the newer English introductions. Attractive bloom, tho small. 28-30 inches. 35c

"This old variety has not yet been equalled in its class by any of the newer introductions. . . Its standards are a clear, beautiful yellow and the hazy lilac color of its falls seems to detach it from the earth and the rest of the plant, and give it that evanescent quality for which the Iris surpasses all other flowers."

FLAVESCENS (Europe, before 1830)—Both standards and falls are soft yellow; wonderfully delicate, and of good size and growth. One of the older yellows that still retains its hold on the iris public, 30-32 inches......20c

HELGE (G. & K., 1908)—Both S. and F. lemon-yellow One of the early or "intermediate" types, and of good size and form, 12-15 inches................20c

"Loreley is a gem and the fastest multiplier on my place."

MRS. NEUBRONNER (Ware, about 1898)—S. and F. very deep, rich yellow. Its color is good, but its height and size and shape are against it. I am listing it for there is no other yellow so deep and intense. 14-16 inches......20c

SHEKINAH (Sturtevant, 1918)—A pale lemon-yellow pallida. not large in size, but on a moderately tall stalk, and generally admired, 30-34 inhes......\$2.00

TWO OF THE SIMPSON SEEDLINGS.

"Arlington is in all its glory; one of the rhizomes you sent has a wonderful bloom. I think it is as fine an Iris as I have ever had.—Tennessee.

"A new seedling from Mr. H. P. Simpson caused considerable comment; its large size and clear coloring were doubly attractive.—Takoma Park, D. C.

"The outstanding bloom in my garden.—Tennessee.

"Your Arlington is better than L .A. W. in that it is taller, of better color and without the somberness of that variety. It is a thoroughly good Iris.—Alabama.

"Arlington bloomed fine for me and was better than Prospero (a choice English variety).—Michigan.

"I consider that one stalk of Arlington which I included in an exhibit of 12 varieties at the Mass. Hort. Exhibition, was the means of my obtaining first prize.—Miss Sturtevant, Massachusetts.



A FINE COLLECTION AT A LOW PRICE.

For those beginning the fascinating culture of Irises, a collection (my selection) of ten varieties, all named, will be sent for \$2.50, made up from the following choice kinds: Pauline, Lewis Trowbridge, Albert Victor, MaMie, Storm Cloud, Windham, Tamerlane, Her Majesty, Innocenza, Amas, Caterina, Princess Victoria Louise, Fairy, Rhein Nixe, Parisiana, Lohengrin and Swatara. State your choice if you have any. This collection can be highly recommended to any one beginning their venture into the glories of Irisland.

A MORE EXPENSIVE COLLECTION OF SOME OF THE SCARCER KINDS FOR \$5.00.

Fenella

Ed. Michel

Archeveque

Monsignor

Myth

Oriflamme

Alcazar

Isoline

Quaker Lady

Dawn

Minnehaha

Anne Leslie

The above if bought separately would cost you \$7.00.



WHAT THEY THINK OF THE STOCK I SEND OUT.

The extracts given here are from actual letters on file that have been received from appreciative customers:

¶ I must write and tell you how well the plants you sent me last June have done—especially the ones considered by so many the hardest to grow: Kashmir White, Ed. Michell and Caterina—have all grown wonderfully well. Without exception they have surely shown how splendid must be the quality of the stock sent out.—T. P. H., Pennsylvania.

¶ I bought Princess Beatrice from seven different growers and only yours pulled through the winter—the worst winter we ever had.—K. P. W., Tennessee.

¶ The roots ordered are fine and I have every confidence that they will do well and will give me some such glorious blooms as you had at the Iris Show.—J. P. K., Virginia.

¶ Your Iris roots for the school arrived this morning, and in the usual H. P. Simpson fashion—everything fine and ship-shape.—I. A. T., District of Columbia.

¶ I wish to thank you for the very generous manner in which you filled my order—fine roots and an extraordinary conception of "single" roots.—E. T. H., Virginia.

¶ The Iris roots came today and are very fine.—F. E. D., Massachusetts.

I duly received the Irises ordered and was, as usual, delighted with the stock sent me. I have purchased from a great many growers and think it is fair to you to state that at no time have I secured better plants from any of them. I am interested in your seedlings and will accept a shipment of any such that you think would be worth my while for which you may bill me, and I will forward my check.—R. G., Pennsylvania.

TERMS OF SALE.

Cash with order by either check or money order.

Orders of less than one dollar are respectfully declined.

Orders by the dozen or more: While I am not a whole-saler and do not grow in large quantities, as a rule and with all except the scarce kinds, I can supply 12 roots of any one variety for the price of ten, but not 12 roots of different varieties, please keep in mind. I may be slightly higher on a very few kinds than some growers, but this can be due to the larger sizes of my roots—in fact I know it is in some cases, judging from my own purchases and from what others have told me. Anyway, please note how much lower most of the prices are than those quoted by the average reliable grower!

Shipping Time: My preference, and that of the great majority, is after the plants have bloomed, which with me is after June 10th. From this date until September 1st, is undoubtedly the best transplanting time; and to prove this, I do all my own transplanting then! However, I can accommodate those who wish the roots delivered in the spring if they will so direct me.

Size of Roots: They are mostly of the so-called "blooming size" (the rarer varieties will run somewhat smaller, however), though it has been found that about one-fourth of these will not bloom the first season after transplanting, due to some cause which no one can control. Different varieties give us different-sized rhizomes; for instance, Othello, Windham, Iris King, etc., naturally produce small or rather small ones, while Lewis Trowbridge, Pauline, Caterina and others produce the larger ones.

At the Iris Society's national show, held in Washington, May, 1924, not only was the Society's bronze medal awarded my general display of seedlings, but Awards of Merit were bestowed on three special ones. Two of these will be offered for sale in 1926; one, No. 29a, is a plicata on the order of Madam Chereau, but much more beautiful and larger; the other, No 49a, is a very deeply colored rich bloom, somewhat related to Arlington; the third, No. 3a, is a magnificently large bloom of a very deep reddish purple, but its blooming habit will have to be further tested before I can recommend it for general planting. This last mentioned variety was easily the largest bloom in the entire show, though the other two were not far behind it in size!

Satisfaction is absolutely guaranteed to all reasonable purchasers. On receipt of an order, if unsatisfactory to you, return the roots promptly in good condition and the purchase price will be as promptly remitted. I am not in the Iris business simply to make money out of it, and any other policy than this would utterly fail to be satisfactory to me. Be reasonable, though, please, and if you have never bought Iris before, do not expect the earth for the prices asked. I do not send out "nubbins," as some growers do, but still keep in mind what was said above, that some varieties naturally grow small rhizomes, while other grow large ones.

A Word of Caution: Go slow about ordering any of the very expensive American or foreign varieties, unless you have seen them blooming and hence know them;—I mean those costing five, ten and fifteen dollars or more. Many of them are absolutely not needed in anyone's garden, and many of them are not worth over one or two dollars each—much less five or ten!

SHIPPING AT BLOOMING TIME

On the preceding pages, through inadvertence, it was neglected to state that roots cannot be shipped during blooming time, which, with me, is about from May 1st to June 10th. As mentioned before, the best transplanting time is during June, July and August: the plants are dormant or somewhat so then, and, besides, better ones, as a rule, can be then sent. Reservations can be made ahead of time for delivery during these months if accompanied by 25 per cent of the amount your order calls for; the balance to be paid upon receipt of the plants.

However, if you strongly desire spring delivery, and the fever for planting then cannot be resisted, state so, and you will be accommodated with the best roots possible to send you.

Sunbeams imprisoned that fall to earth and grow;

The lovely ling'ring blush of sunset afterglow.

The whiteness of the snows, a gleam of garish gold,

A wave of royal purple, a dash of yellow gold.

(G. H. Dalzell in the "Flower Grower.")